

Dedicated Dredging on the Barataria Basin Landbridge (BA-CW-3)

Coast 2050 Strategy Coastwide Strategy – Dedicated dredging to create, restore, or protect wetlands.

Project Location Region 2-Barataria Basin-Jefferson Parish. The project area is located along the southeastern side of Bayou Rigolettes and between the Harvey Cut and Bayou Perot and consists of 502 acres of emergent marsh and 780 acres of open water for a total of 1,282 acres.

Problem The Barataria Basin Landbridge is the landmass that hydrologically divides the upper and lower Barataria Basin. The hydrologic connections between the upper and lower Barataria Basin are much greater today due to the Barataria Bay Waterway, Bayou Segnette Waterway, Harvey Cut, and substantial erosion and interior marsh loss has occurred along Bayous Perot and Rigolettes. COE and USGS land loss data indicate a recent loss rate of 2.3 %/yr to 2.5 %/yr. The causes of marsh loss appear to be primarily from subsidence and wind/wave erosion. This project, in conjunction with the Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project (BBLSPP), will protect the functional integrity of this critical area of the Barataria Basin.

Goals The goals of this project are to create 780 acres of emergent marsh and to nourish/enhance an additional 502 acres of emergent marsh.

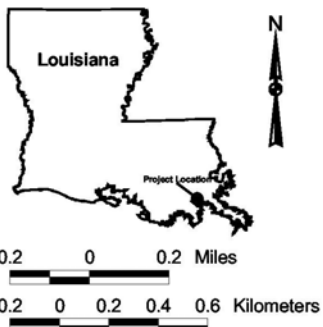
Proposed Solution The project will include hydraulic dredging in Bayou Rigolettes and placement of dredged material in open water areas in the marsh interior. Shoreline protection features of the BBLSPP will be used for containment along Bayous Perot and Rigolettes and earthen containment will be used in other areas. Upon demobilization, the marsh platform will be aerially seeded with a mixture of browntop millet, Japanese millet, and/or other species to increase soil stability and jumpstart vegetative colonization.

Project Benefits The project will directly benefit 1,282 acres of intermediate marsh and open water and result in the net protection/creation of 564 acres of emergent marsh.

Project Costs The total fully-funded cost is \$29,692,800 and the fully funded first cost is \$29,377,100.

Risk/Uncertainty and Longevity/Sustainability There is a low degree of risk/uncertainty associated with this project because of the numerous, successful marsh creation projects which have been constructed along the coast. The project should continue to provide wetland benefits for greater than 20 years after construction.

Sponsoring Agency and Contact Person U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Areas to be
filled/nourished

Data Source:
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

LA Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Restoration Division

Map Date: November 2, 2001
Map ID: 200204113

Image Data:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quads (DOQQS)

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Region 2

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